THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Automatic Sorting Machines have been installed at Mumbai and Chennai and use of these machines has helped in processing large volumes of mails faster and in an efficient manner which in turn results in faster deliveries to addressees.

To improve front office (counter) operations, the Department of Posts has already implemented a comprehensive technology induction programme with thrust area on computerization and on networking the bigger post offices, major sub-post offices, administrative offices and all pay and accounts offices. Satellite based communication network for money order transmission has been introduced throughout the country. The computer based multi-purpose counter machines have been introduced in large post offices. Induction of these machines has reduced long delays and made postal transactions more efficient and economical.

With a view to optimizing utilization of the postal network, series of value added financial services have been introduced by the department including International Money Transfer Service, sale of Mutual Funds and Bonds, Electronic Fund Transfer Service and Cash Management Services.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Extension of MTNL services to Chennai

3031. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for extension of jurisdiction of MTNL upto Chennai, a well known commercial place in Southern India;

(b) whether Government would come forward to execute the proposal of extension of MTNL;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for the extension of MTNL jurisdiction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A proposal for extension of jurisdiction of MTNL Chennai was received in August, 1998 from the then Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, and he was informed that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was being corporatised which would include Chennai Telephones.

(b) to (d) After creation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with effect from 1st October, 2000, Chennai Telephones came under the management of BSNL which has similar financial autonomy like MTNL and the telephone system in Chennai has shown consistent good performance in respect of provisioning of new telephones, fault rates, technology employed as well as customer satisfaction.

Telephone connections in Orissa

3032. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in installing telephone connections in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether in a case, registered with telephone authorities in the year 1992, a connection is yet to be given and on this case the High Court of Orissa has directed Government to pay compensation to the applicant for this inordinate delay; and

(c) if so, what is plaguing the system in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, there was a case of Shri Sadhu Gadadhar Dash, Omkar Mission of Ambadall village, Mayurbhanj district, for which there had been delay in providing telephone connection due to technically non-feasible area. Details are given in Statement (See below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.